

NAOKI AND YOSHIKI SAKAMOTO

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2351]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 2351) for the relief of Naoki and Yoshiki Sakamoto, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to waive the racial barrier to admission into the United States in behalf of the minor Japanese children of a citizen of the United States.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiaries of the bill are the minor children of Mrs. Takeyo Sakamoto, a native-born citizen of the United States. Mrs. Sakamoto went to Japan in 1941 where she was married to a Japanese national from whom she is now divorced. The children were born in 1942 and 1945 and did not derive citizenship through their citizen parent inasmuch as the citizen parent did not have the necessary residence in the United States as required by the Nationality Act of 1940.

Delegate Joseph R. Farrington, the author of the bill, submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives the following statement in connection with the bill:

Mrs. Takeyo Sakamoto was born in the Territory of Hawaii on December 1, 1915. She went to Japan in 1932 and remained there until 1939 when she returned to Hawaii and remained there until November 1941. When she went back to Japan she was married to a Japanese alien and has since been divorced. In 1950 she returned to her home in Hawaii leaving her minor children in Japan. Yoshiki Sakamoto was born August 8, 1942, at 1672 Miyamoto cho, Kiryu shi, Gumma Prefecture. Naoki Sakamoto was born April 9, 1945, at the same place.

I am enclosing several letters of recommendation from persons who have known Mrs. Sakamoto and a letter from Mrs. Sakamoto requesting this legislation.

The documents referred to in Delegate Farrington's statement read as follows:

SAPPORO, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN, *July 4, 1950.*

HONORABLE SIR: I am addressing myself to you at the suggestion of the American consul at Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, in an appeal for appropriate action which will result in myself, an American citizen, and my two minor dependent children being able to return to Hawaii to rejoin my aging, anxious parents.

My own citizenship is not in doubt, it having been restored by the legal action of October 9, 1947. I was caught in Japan by the outbreak of war in 1941. My present status is that of a divorcee, having been married during the war to a Japanese national and having divorced him thereafter on the grounds of non-support and irresponsibility.

Reference: Consular service memorandum: American Citizenship of Persons of Japanese Ancestry Resident in Japan (par. 11)—

An applicant may include his or her minor children or brothers and sisters in his application, but only provided they too have a claim to American citizenship and are less than 19 years of age. (NOTE.—In the case of a child born outside the United States on or after January 13, 1941, of one American-citizen parent and one alien parent, the child does not have a claim to American citizenship unless, before the birth of the child, the American parent has resided for a total of 10 years in the United States, at least 5 of which were after reaching the age of 16.)

However, according to the interpretation of the American consulate in Yokohama, citizenship of the children is in doubt because, despite my 19 years of continuous residence on American soil, I had not fulfilled the requirement that 5 years of this time should have been spent in the land of my birth, Hawaii, subsequent to my sixteenth birthday, and because the children were born after January 13, 1941.

As I am an American citizen, I am free to leave Japan at any time for the United States. But such a thing would be unthinkable, despite my yearnings to return to my native country, because such a move would entail abandonment of these two minor children. They are not able to take care of themselves and there would be no one here with whom I would entrust them. Through bitter years I have supported them by my own efforts and have tried constantly to make them strong and honest and worthy that they might be each a credit to the country I always have clung to as their own, America. I could not and would not leave them, ever, and my whole hope and prayers lie in my faith that somehow we can remain united but in the land of my birth, and where my solicitous mother and father still await us.

I have been told by the consulate that it is not the intention or desire of the law to inflict cruelty on those whose only desire is to live honorably and worthily, nor to separate families. Yet it does appear that unless some special action is taken in Congress, these things surely will result for myself, my sons, and my parents.

I therefore address myself to you, Honorable Sir, with the earnest appeal that such action be requested of the proper authorities, and to that end submit the accompanying personal data.

Be assured that should favorable action be taken, neither myself nor my sons would be in any way a burden to the state, as I am financially able to guarantee this, and in any event, a double guaranty would be extended by my parental father, Mr. Jenichi Sakamoto, residing at Kapauu, Kohala, Hawaii, T. H.

Yours truly,

TAKEYO SAKAMOTO,
c/o Grand Hotel, Seventh Infantry Division Officers' Club,
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

PERSONAL HISTORY FROM TIME OF BIRTH TO PRESENT DATE

Place and date of birth: Kapaau, Kohala, Hawaii, T. H., December 1, 1915.

Departed from Territory of Hawaii for Japan for purpose of study, from July 1932 to December 1939.

Returned and resided at birthplace, Kapaau, Kohala, Hawaii, from January 1940 to November 1941.

Departed Honolulu, November 1941, for visit and residing in Japan to present date.

Reasons of residence in Japan: To take care of my minor children.

Occupation: Stenographer and interpreter at the Grand Hotel Officers' Club from November 1946 to the present date with the Eleventh Airborne Division and presently with the Seventh Infantry Division, APO 7, Unit 5.

Name, date of birth of children applying permanent residence for: Yoshiaki Sakamoto, 8 years old, born August 8, 1942, at 1672 Miyamoto cho, Kiryu shi, Gumma Prefecture; Naoki Sakamoto, 5 years old, born April 9, 1945, at 1672 Miyamoto cho, Kiryu shi, Gumma Prefecture.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND,
August 24, 1950.

Subject: Character reference.

To Whom Concerned:

This will certify that I am personally acquainted with both Sakamoto Takeyo and her two male children, Naoki and Yoshiki, formerly of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

It is a pleasure to be able to speak in unqualified terms of commendation of this industrious, high-principle Nisei mother and her well-behaved, obviously well-trained offspring. During the year I was billeted in the Army hotel where she was employed as receptionist-interpreter and general assistant to the manager, I had many occasions to observe and benefit from her diligent attention to duty, her quick perceptions, and her unfailing generosity with her time and energy. Together with other residents of the hotel, both men and women, I invited her and her children to my quarters on several occasions and repeatedly was struck by the many evidences of careful, conscientious, intelligent care and training she had invested in the children. They are healthy of mind and body.

It is my firm belief that the two boys would be a credit to American citizenship, together with their patriotic, good Christian mother.

I stand ready to be of any assistance in this matter.

ALLISON IND.
Lieutenant Colonel GSC, G-2 Section, GHQ, FEC, APO 500, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco.

KOHALA, T. H., November 25, 1950.

Hon. JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON,
Delegate to Congress, Territory of Hawaii,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR DELEGATE: In reference to your letter of July 25, 1950, and other communications concerning Mrs. Takeyo Sakamoto, formerly residing at the Grand Hotel, Seventh Infantry Division Officers' Club, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, the writer wishes to inform the Delegate from Hawaii, that Mrs. Sakamoto since August 10, 1950, is now located at her father's residence at Kapaau, Kohala, T. H.

I am contacting the Delegate on behalf of this young mother, who is very anxious to have her children with her. Since I have known her for many years, before her visit to Japan to enter school, and after her return, I will without any hesitation attest to the excellent character, Americanism, and complete honesty of this young mother.

Am sure that the Delegate has this problem in his mind, and this letter is written only to substantiate the excellent character of Mrs. Sakamoto.

Trusting that the above will give you a little assistance, and wishing the Honorable J. R. F. Godspeed in his efforts for statehood, I am,

Very sincerely and aloha,

KINICHI SAKAI,

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 2351) should be enacted.

